

Remarks

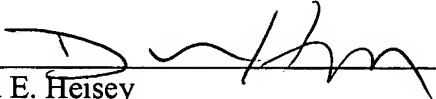
This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a continuation patent application of co-pending United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/961,787 filed September 21, 2001, of the same title. This Preliminary Amendment cancels original Claims 1-30, without prejudice to further prosecution and adds new Claims 31-52. Claims 31, 38, 45 and 52 are independent.

Conclusion

Applicants herewith submit this Preliminary Amendment, and request examination of pending Claims 31-52. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/11/2004



David E. Heisey
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 42,651
c/o LUCE, FORWARD, HAMILTON
& SCRIPPS
11988 El Camino Real, Ste. 200
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone No.: (858) 720-6300